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SUBJECT: OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL: RESPONSE TO THE OSCE
ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

¶1. (U) Post is authorized to present the following statement
at the June 19, 2008 Permanent Council meeting in Vienna.

Begin Text:

We would like to welcome Mr. Snoy back to the Permanent
Council, and thank him for his thorough report on the
activities of the Economic and Environmental Committee.

We heard some interesting ideas at this year,s Forum about
the direction and focus of the Economic and Environmental
dimension of the OSCE.

As a number of speakers at the Forum observed, the OSCE could
help improve implementation of International Maritime
Organization conventions by raising awareness and generating
political will. The OSCE could usefully supplement efforts
to achieve several International Maritime Organization
priorities and initiatives.

Also, the OSCE could help with national legislation that
facilitates implementation of existing conventions, including
encouraging individual countries to put some real enforcement
muscle behind the conventions.

The exchange of best practices related to maritime issues
between regions also seems like a reasonable and manageable
role for the OSCE. The variety of countries represented in
the OSCE makes it an ideal forum for sharing experiences and
developing guidelines for maritime issues, with due
consideration for work on these topics within the IMO and
other multilateral organizations and venues.

Finally, with respect to the challenges of land-locked
countries, the OSCE might help facilitate trade and transport
by harmonizing customs and border management procedures. The
idea of developing a &Handbook on uBest Practices at Border
Crossings8 may deserve further consideration, taking into
account standards and responsibilities of the World Customs
Organization and other multilateral organizations.

These are all areas where the OSCE has expertise and can
provide added value. We look forward to hearing from other
delegations how these suggestions or others might be
translated into decisions that we can consider at our
ministerial this December in Helsinki.

Mr. Chairman, the United States agrees with others who have
suggested that it would be useful for participating States to
engage in a larger debate about the future direction and
programs of the Second Dimension. We also wonder if the
selection of an annual theme is actually yielding the results
we desire, or instead is only leading to a diffusion of
effort that deflects the Organization and the Secretariat
from concentrating on a limited number of issues where it can
achieve concrete results.

We continue to believe that we should concentrate the OSCE,s
collective energy - and its resource allocations) on what

this organization does best in the Second Dimension, and that is promoting rule of law and good governance, and helping to put into practice rules and regulations that aid in the fight against corruption, organized crime, and money laundering.

Refocusing our efforts on these core activities, the United States believes, can help to raise the investment climate throughout the OSCE region, and by extension, the level of prosperity and security that we all enjoy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

End Text
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